

IN THE EXECUTIVE ETHICS COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

IN RE: YOLANDA JONES) OEIG Case #15-01772

OEIG FINAL REPORT (REDACTED)

Below is a final summary report from an Executive Inspector General. The General Assembly has directed the Executive Ethics Commission (Commission) to redact information from this report that may reveal the identity of witnesses, complainants or informants and “any other information it believes should not be made public.” 5 ILCS 430/20-52(b).

The Commission exercises this responsibility with great caution and with the goal of balancing the sometimes-competing interests of increasing transparency and operating with fairness to the accused. In order to balance these interests, the Commission may redact certain information contained in this report. The redactions are made with the understanding that the subject or subjects of the investigation have had no opportunity to rebut the report’s factual allegations or legal conclusions before the Commission.

The Commission received this report from the Governor’s Office of Executive Inspector General (“OEIG”) and a response from the agency in this matter. The Commission, pursuant to 5 ILCS 430/20-52, redacted the final report and mailed copies of the redacted version and responses to the Attorney General, the Governor’s Executive Inspector General, and to Yolanda Jones at her last known address.

I. ALLEGATIONS

On August 28, 2015, the Office of Executive Inspector General (OEIG) received a complaint alleging that Department of Human Services (DHS) Human Services Caseworker (caseworker) Yolanda Jones was working as a personal assistant (PA) during her regular DHS work hours.

II. BACKGROUND

A. Division Of Rehabilitation Services Personal Assistants

DHS’s Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) Home Services Program (HSP) provides services to individuals with severe disabilities so they can remain in their homes and be as independent as possible. One option for achieving this goal is by using the services of a PA. Customers can select their own PA to assist in their home based on the service plan they have jointly developed with their DRS rehabilitation counselor. Alternatively, DHS can recommend a homemaker agency which supplies a PA for the customer. PAs assist customers with household tasks, personal care and, with permission of a doctor, certain health care procedures.

B. Yolanda Jones

Yolanda Jones began employment with DHS as a Social Service Career Trainee in September 2013 at the Southeast Family Community Resource Center (Southeast FCRC) in Chicago. She was promoted to the position of caseworker in June 2014 and assigned to the Intake Division. In this role, Ms. Jones was responsible for interviewing customers to determine if they are eligible for various DHS programs, procuring documents from the customers, and completing customer evaluations before forwarding the information to the next level of review.

Yolanda Jones also started employment as a DRS PA on February 18, 2014. Yolanda Jones was only assigned to provide PA services for her [Mother].

III. INVESTIGATION

Because the complaint alleged that Yolanda Jones was working as a PA during the same hours she was reportedly working as a DHS caseworker, OEIG investigators interviewed Yolanda Jones' supervisor, [DHS Administrator], to determine the timekeeping practices at the Southeast FCRC. OEIG investigators interviewed the initial DRS caseworker assigned to [Mother], [DRS Caseworker].¹ Investigators also conducted surveillance of Yolanda Jones, obtained timesheets Yolanda Jones submitted as both a PA and as a DHS caseworker, and interviewed Yolanda Jones.

A. Interview Of [DHS Administrator]

On September 6, 2016, OEIG investigators interviewed [DHS Administrator]. [Identifying information redacted].

OEIG investigators asked [DHS Administrator] about the timekeeping practices used at the Southeast FCRC for DHS caseworkers. [DHS Administrator] explained that all Southeast FCRC employees sign in and out of the facility via a handwritten timesheet. He said that each morning the timekeeper places a preprinted timesheet, which lists the employees' names and scheduled shifts, on a desk near the entrance to the building. [DHS Administrator] said that the employees sign their name next to their preprinted name, write the time of their arrival, and initial it. According to [DHS Administrator], the timekeeper circles the names of employees who have not signed in by 9:00 a.m. and removes the timesheet. [DHS Administrator] said the timekeeper replaces the timesheet on the desk near the end of the work day and when employees complete their scheduled shifts they write their departure time and initial it again. He said that anyone arriving after 9:00 a.m., or departing before their regularly scheduled shift, must personally see the timekeeper to sign in or out.

[DHS Administrator] noted that DHS employees are entitled to two 15 minute breaks and a 1 hour lunch break, but these breaks cannot be used to allow an employee to leave early and supervisors do not have the authority to allow employees to leave early without utilizing benefit time.

¹ [DRS Caseworker] was a caseworker when [Mother] applied for the Home Services Program. [Identifying information redacted].

[DHS Administrator] confirmed that Yolanda Jones' scheduled shift is 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. [DHS Administrator] said he was not aware of any timekeeping issues with Yolanda Jones.

B. Interview Of [DRS Caseworker]

On September 6, 2016, OEIG investigators interviewed [DRS Caseworker], who was the initial DRS caseworker assigned to [Mother].

[DRS Caseworker] explained that the PA approval system is initiated by the customer submitting an application for assistance to DRS. [DRS Caseworker] said that a DRS caseworker is then assigned to determine if the customer is eligible for a PA. The evaluation includes medical forms to be completed by the customer's doctor and an interview with the DRS caseworker at the customer's residence. [DRS Caseworker] said the customer can designate a PA or the caseworker can refer the customer to an agency that supplies PAs. [DRS Caseworker] approximated that 85% of PAs are family members.

[DRS Caseworker] explained that timekeeping for PAs is done via both a paper timesheet and an Electronic Voice Verification (EVV) system. The PAs complete bi-monthly paper timesheets, one for the 1st through the 15th and another for the 16th through the end of the month. [DRS Caseworker] said that the customer and PA each sign the sheet, which states that the information on the document is correct.

In addition, [DRS Caseworker] said that when a customer is approved for PA services, the customer must provide their home telephone number, which is used for the EVV system. [DRS Caseworker] said that when the PA arrives at the customer's home, the PA must call into the EVV system using the customer's telephone. [DRS Caseworker] said the EVV system recognizes the telephone number of the customer and the PA then enters their PA identification number. The EVV system then records the start of the PA's work hours. When the PA completes their shift, the PA repeats the aforementioned process. [DRS Caseworker] told investigators that the EVV system generates a report that is reviewed by the customer's caseworker and compared to the handwritten timesheets. She said that if there are any major discrepancies, the customer is contacted by the caseworker to reconcile the time.

[DRS Caseworker] stated that when the EVV system was added to the timekeeping procedure to record the PA's hours, there was a provision requiring the customers to have a non-cellular telephone in their residence. She said that many of the DRS customers do not own a landline telephone, so DRS allowed the customers to use cellular telephones for the EVV system. [DRS Caseworker] acknowledged that this is problematic since the cellular telephone is mobile and not necessarily in the customer's home when the call is made to the EVV system.

C. OEIG Review Of DRS Records

According to [Mothers'] DRS benefits file, DRS approved PA services for [Mother] at 80 hours per month for a total of \$932. Yolanda Jones was then approved to provide the PA services beginning February 18, 2014. Yolanda Jones indicated on her PA application that she was employed at DHS, where she worked from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. The

phone number listed on all application materials was the same for both Yolanda Jones and [Mother]. The number was repeatedly listed as [Mother's] home phone number even when there was a separate box for a cellular phone number.

According to the DRS case notes, Yolanda Jones received an "Over Hours Warning" for exceeding the number of hours authorized in [Mother's] DRS service plan by 26.61 hours during the pay period of April 16-30, 2015. She received a second warning for the period of June 16-30, 2015 for exceeding the plan by 14.78 hours. The case notes indicated Yolanda Jones was then warned that she could be replaced by a homemaker agency. A letter was also mailed to [Mother] informing her that it was her responsibility to manage her PA. The letter indicated that although the service plan only authorized 80 hours per month, she had approved 106.1 hours in May 2015 and 94.78 hours in June 2015. Yolanda Jones received a third warning for exceeding the service plan by 6.56 hours in August 2015.

OEIG investigators learned that Yolanda Jones ended her employment as a PA on September 23, 2016 and, as a result, [Mother] was assigned a new PA.

D. Surveillance Of Yolanda Jones

On January 28, 29, and April 7, and 25, 2016, OEIG investigators conducted surveillance on Yolanda Jones as she completed her scheduled shift at DHS. Investigators located her vehicle in the DHS employee parking lot at the Southeast FCRC before the end of her shift at 5:00 p.m. The vehicle was identified by its make, model, and license plate number. Yolanda Jones was then identified using a copy of her driver's license. Investigators maintained visual surveillance of Yolanda Jones for several hours following her workday and recorded her actions as they occurred.

After conducting surveillance, investigators obtained Yolanda Jones' DHS caseworker and DRS PA timesheets for the days of surveillance. Highlights of the OEIG's observations during surveillance and the information contained on Yolanda Jones' corresponding timesheets are discussed below.

January 28, 2016

Yolanda Jones was observed leaving the Southeast FCRC at 5:12 p.m. She entered her vehicle alone and left the area. Visual contact with Yolanda Jones' vehicle was lost at 5:27 p.m. Investigators arrived at [Mother's] residence at 5:44 p.m. and surveilled the immediate area until 6:15 p.m. during which they were unable to locate Yolanda Jones' vehicle. Investigators then proceeded to Yolanda Jones' residence and were also unable to locate the vehicle there at 6:45 p.m. at which time the surveillance was terminated.

Yolanda Jones' DHS timesheet for January 28, 2016, indicated that she worked 8:50 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Her DRS PA timesheet showed that she started as a PA at 5:00 p.m. and ended at 9:01 p.m.

January 29, 2016

On January 29, 2016, Yolanda Jones was observed leaving the DHS Southeast FCRC at 5:17 p.m. with another adult² and two children. All four individuals entered Yolanda Jones' vehicle and departed the Southeast FCRC parking lot at 5:29 p.m. Investigators maintained visual contact with the vehicle as it travelled northbound. Yolanda Jones' vehicle was then observed being stopped by a Chicago Police Department vehicle at 5:56 p.m. After conversing with Yolanda Jones, the police officer returned to his vehicle, both vehicles departed, and surveillance continued. At 6:34 p.m., the occupants were observed exiting Yolanda Jones' parked vehicle at the United Center.

Yolanda Jones' DHS timesheet for January 29, 2016, indicated that she worked 8:50 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Her DRS PA timesheet showed that she started as a PA at 5:10 p.m. and ended at 9:11 p.m.

April 7, 2016

During the surveillance on April 7, 2016, Yolanda Jones was observed leaving the DHS office at 5:12 p.m. with a man later identified as her [Son]. She drove to Horace Mann Elementary where she picked up a child later identified as her daughter at 5:27 p.m. She then drove to Fairplay Foods supermarket and investigators observed all three individuals enter the store at 6:08 p.m. All three individuals exited the store and loaded groceries into Yolanda Jones' vehicle at 6:57 p.m. Yolanda Jones then drove to a residence where she dropped off her daughter at 7:28 p.m. Yolanda Jones and [Son] then traveled to [Mother's] residence arriving at 7:52 p.m. [Son] went inside while Yolanda Jones remained in her vehicle. At 8:01 p.m. [Son] and Yolanda Jones left and proceeded to Yolanda Jones' residence where they unloaded the groceries and remained until surveillance was terminated at 9:01 p.m.

Yolanda Jones' DHS timesheet for April 7, 2016, indicated that she worked 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Her DRS PA timesheet showed that she started as a PA at 5:05 p.m. and ended at 9:45 p.m.

April 25, 2016

Yolanda Jones was observed by investigators leaving the DHS office at 5:12 p.m. She drove to Horace Mann Elementary at 5:27 p.m., exited her vehicle, and went inside. Yolanda Jones came out of the school with her daughter, got back in her car, and proceeded to a residential street where she parked at 5:55 p.m. Investigators' view was obstructed until she departed at 6:01 p.m. and drove to a gas station. She left the gas station at 6:14 p.m. Yolanda Jones then drove to her residence arriving at 6:20 p.m. Investigators observed Yolanda Jones, her daughter, and another female³ enter the residence. Investigators then observed Yolanda Jones exit her residence and begin washing her vehicle at 7:22 p.m. She was still washing the vehicle when surveillance was terminated at 9:01 p.m.

² The additional adult was not [Mother].

³ The additional adult was not [Mother].

Yolanda Jones' DHS timesheet for April 25, 2016, indicated that she worked 8:50 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Her DRS PA timesheet showed that she started as a PA at 6:40 p.m. and ended at 10:41 p.m.

E. Horace Mann Elementary After School Program

On March 16, 2016, OEIG investigators interviewed [Resource Coordinator], who was the Resource Coordinator responsible for managing the Horace Mann Elementary after school program. [Resource Coordinator] told investigators that she works for Youth Guidance Inc., which operates the after school program. [Resource Coordinator] said that the program begins at the conclusion of regular school classes and ends at 5:30 p.m. at which time students are picked up by a preapproved adult. [Resource Coordinator] said that the adult must sign the child out when they pick them up. If the adult picks them up before 5:30 p.m., then they must sign the Horace Mann Elementary security desk log instead.

Investigators reviewed the sign in sheets for the Horace Mann Elementary after school program and the security logs from the Horace Mann Elementary security desk for the period of October 2015 to May 2016. The sign in sheet for January 28, 2016 indicated Yolanda Jones' daughter was picked up before 5:30 p.m., but the corresponding security log was missing. There were no entries for the other surveillance dates. However, investigators identified 36 entries where Yolanda Jones signed out her daughter and 28 of those occurred when she was billing as a PA.⁴

F. Yolanda Jones' Timesheets

OEIG investigators reviewed Yolanda Jones' timesheets for her position as a DHS caseworker and compared those to her timesheets as a PA, including the EVV system logs, for January 1, 2014 to April 30, 2016.⁵ Investigators also reviewed all leave requests submitted by Yolanda Jones at DHS.

The top of each DRS Home Services Program timesheet included space for the customer and the PA to write their names, addresses, and phone numbers. On every timesheet reviewed, [Mother] and Yolanda Jones listed the same phone number.

Investigators identified 44 days that timesheets showed Yolanda Jones clocked in as a PA before she clocked out as a caseworker. On each of these 44 DHS timesheets, Yolanda Jones wrote 5:00 p.m. as her departure time and initialed it. Investigators also did not find any leave requests for these 44 days that would indicate Yolanda Jones was allowed to leave early.

⁴ Investigators noted that there were no signatures on the sign in sheet for a number of children on a regular basis. Additionally, the security logs often did not include signatures. Thus, for many days there was no record of who picked up a child or when.

⁵ In reviewing Yolanda Jones' PA handwritten timesheets, investigators noted that they rarely diverged from the EVV logs by more than a minute and all discrepancies were ultimately reconciled.

Investigators also analyzed the timesheets and, using the lowest possible travel times,⁶ identified numerous days where it was nearly impossible for Yolanda Jones to have been performing her PA duties at the time she indicated.⁷ Investigators identified 236 out of a possible 365 days where Yolanda Jones called in as a PA before she would have been able to reach [Mother's] residence.

G. Interview Of Yolanda Jones

On September 22, 2016, investigators interviewed Yolanda Jones. Yolanda Jones told investigators that in addition to her duties as a DHS caseworker, she also serves as a PA for her [Mother] for 4 hours, 5 days a week. She stated that her normal PA schedule generally started around 5:00 p.m. and concluded after 9:00 p.m.

When asked about the PA timekeeping procedures, Yolanda Jones said that since her mother did not have a cellular phone, Yolanda Jones gave her mother her (Yolanda Jones') cellular phone, which was used to clock in and out on the EVV system. Yolanda Jones explained that she takes the cellular phone from her mother and calls the EVV telephone number when she starts her PA duties. The EVV phone system advises her what time it is and Yolanda Jones enters it on the handwritten timesheet. Yolanda Jones said that she repeats the process at the end of her shift.

When asked if her DHS and DRS timesheets accurately reflected the hours she worked, Yolanda Jones stated that they did. Yolanda Jones verified her and her mother's signatures on several DRS timesheets, attesting that the times listed were true and correct.

Investigators showed Yolanda Jones several DRS timesheets, which indicated that Yolanda Jones clocked in as a PA before she signed out as a DHS caseworker at 5:00 p.m.⁸ When asked how that was possible, Yolanda Jones stated that each day her mother takes public transportation to meet her at the Southeast FCRC. Yolanda Jones said that she then takes her mother to medical appointments or performs various other tasks before driving her home where she (Yolanda Jones) continues her PA duties. Yolanda Jones told investigators, "If my mom's not at my work, I can't clock in."

Investigators asked Yolanda Jones who took care of her daughter while she was working as a PA. Yolanda Jones said that she takes her to Horace Mann Elementary each morning on her way to work and her [Son], picks her daughter up from school and brings her home. Yolanda Jones stated that her son takes public transportation to the school and then both her children take public transportation back to Yolanda Jones' residence.

Yolanda Jones was shown a surveillance photograph from January 28, 2016, taken at 5:20 p.m. Yolanda Jones stated that her mother was with her in the car and that her son was picking up

⁶ Travel times used for calculations were based on Google Maps directions from the Southeast FCRC to the address [Mother] listed at the top of each DRS timesheet. The "No Traffic" setting was enabled and the route with the lowest possible travel time was used.

⁷ Investigators did not include in the analysis any days where either of the DHS or DRS timesheets were missing or incomplete.

⁸ For example, her DRS timesheets indicated that she began working as a PA on September 30, 2014 at 4:59 p.m.; October 14, 2014 at 4:55 p.m.; October 20, 2014 at 4:54 p.m.; and November 4, 2014 at 4:54 p.m.

her daughter. Investigators informed Yolanda Jones that her mother was not observed at any point before the photo was taken. Yolanda Jones then admitted that she would call in to the EVV system when her mother was not present. Yolanda Jones stated that she was under the impression that as long as she was performing PA related tasks for her mother she could sign in to the EVV system.

Yolanda Jones then admitted that her mother does not take public transportation to the Southeast FCRC office. Yolanda Jones told investigators that although she previously stated that she gave [Mother] her cellular phone, she (Yolanda Jones) actually keeps the cellular phone used to call the EVV system with her at all times. Yolanda Jones said that, at times, she does take care of her mother and then goes home, but there are also many days that she logs in as PA and never sees her mother. Yolanda Jones said that she normally picks up her daughter at Horace Mann Elementary, not her son as she initially told investigators. She acknowledged that she was not truthful with the investigators during the initial part of the interview.

Yolanda Jones said that she recorded her time properly in the beginning, but eventually began submitting false timesheets to collect the PA money. She told investigators that her mother was aware of this, but never received any of the PA money. When asked if she signed her mother's name to any of the timesheets, Yolanda Jones stated that she did on virtually all of them.

Yolanda Jones confirmed that she went to the United Center on January 29, 2016, to attend a Disney production with coworkers and did not perform any PA duties that day. She authenticated the surveillance photos from Fairplay Foods on April 7, 2016 and admitted that she was not performing her PA duties on that day either. Yolanda Jones also admitted to falsely reporting her time on April 25, 2016 as well.

Yolanda Jones estimated that she was not actually working as a PA for approximately 60-70% of the hours on her PA timesheets.

IV. ANALYSIS

A. Yolanda Jones Reported The Same Hours As A DHS Caseworker And DRS PA

During the application process for the DRS Home Services Program, Yolanda Jones and [Mother] both signed a form titled Individual Provider Payment Policies. It stated, "Individual Providers cannot charge HSP for the same hours worked when working another job."⁹ Additionally, DHS Administrative Directives states, "An employee may not use DHS time, equipment, resources, or personnel in any outside paid or non-paid employment."¹⁰

In reviewing Yolanda Jones' timesheets, investigators discovered that Yolanda Jones clocked in as a PA before clocking out as a DHS caseworker on at least 44 occasions. According to [DHS Administrator], the timekeeping practices at the Southeast FCRC required caseworkers to write their departure time and initial it, which Yolanda Jones did. [DHS Administrator] told OEIG investigators that she would not have been able to leave earlier than her scheduled shift

⁹ PAs are a subset of Individual Providers, which includes certified nurse assistants, licensed practical nurses, registered nurses, physical or occupational therapists, and speech therapists.

¹⁰ DHS Administrative Directives 01.02.03.015 (eff. 2004) and 01.02.03.120 (eff. 1999).

without using some form of benefit time. Investigators did not find any leave requests for the 44 days in question confirming that Yolanda Jones was billing for PA services at the same time she was working as a DHS caseworker. Therefore, the allegation that Yolanda Jones reported working as a PA during her regular DHS work hours in violation of DRS Individual Provider Payment Policies and DHS Administrative Directives is **FOUNDED**.¹¹

B. Yolanda Jones Falsified Her DRS PA Timesheets

The Individual Provider Payment Policies states that customers and Individual Providers are responsible for accurately completing and signing all timesheets verifying the information is correct. The DRS timesheets include a signature line for both the PA and the customer to certify the information is true and the services were provided.

Investigators analyzed Yolanda Jones timesheets and identified 236 days where it would have been nearly impossible for her to reach [Mother's] residence in time to begin performing her PA duties, a conservative figure given the traffic patterns Yolanda Jones would have encountered when she left her job as a DHS caseworker at 5:00 p.m. Additionally, when investigators surveilled Yolanda Jones, she did not leave the Southeast FCRC facility before 5:12 p.m. During her interview, Yolanda Jones verified her signature on several DRS timesheets certifying the times as true. She also admitted that she signed her mother's name on virtually all of the timesheets certifying that the services were provided. Ultimately, Yolanda Jones admitted that she regularly submitted false timesheets. Therefore, the allegation that Yolanda Jones falsified her PA timesheets in violation of DRS Individual Provider Payment Policies is **FOUNDED**.

C. Yolanda Jones Billed DHS For Time She Did Not Work

The DRS Individual Provider Payment Policies also state, "Individual Providers can only be paid for the hours they worked for the customer per the HSP Service Plan. Billing for hours not worked constitutes Medicaid fraud."

During Yolanda Jones' interview with OEIG investigators, she admitted that she was not actually working as a PA for 60-70% of the hours she billed DRS. The statement corresponded with what investigators observed during their surveillance. On each of the four days of surveillance, Yolanda Jones was never observed with [Mother] or performing any PA duties despite billing for approximately four hours each of those days. Yolanda Jones' estimate that she was not performing PA duties during 60-70% of the hours she billed would equate to over \$24,000 in fraudulent billing from 2014 to 2016. Therefore, the allegation that Yolanda Jones defrauded DHS by billing for time she was not working or providing services for the customer, [Mother], is **FOUNDED**.

¹¹ The OEIG concludes that an allegation is "founded" when it has determined that there is reasonable cause to believe that a violation of law or policy has occurred, or that there has been fraud, waste, mismanagement, misconduct, nonfeasance, misfeasance, or malfeasance.

V. FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

As a result of its investigation, the OEIG concludes that there is **REASONABLE CAUSE TO ISSUE THE FOLLOWING FINDINGS:**

- **FOUNDED** – Yolanda Jones reported working as a PA during her regular DHS work hours in violation of DRS Individual Provider Payment Policies and DHS Administrative Directives.
- **FOUNDED** – Yolanda Jones falsified her PA timesheets in violation of DRS Individual Provider Payment Policies.
- **FOUNDED** – Yolanda Jones defrauded DHS by billing for time she was not working as a PA.

Based on the findings, the OEIG recommends that DHS terminate the employment of Yolanda Jones and make efforts to recoup all State funds misappropriated by her.

Furthermore, the OEIG recommends that DRS consider and implement better controls for the PA timekeeping system, particularly with respect to the use of cellular phones. In this case, the fact that both the customer and the PA listed the same cellular phone number on all forms could be an indicator of potential abuse.

No further investigative action is needed, and this case is considered closed.

Date: **January 12, 2017**

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February 1, 2017

*Via e-mail to Fallon Opperman, Deputy Inspector General and Chief of Chicago Division,
on behalf of:*

Maggie Hickey

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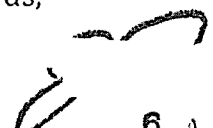
RE: Response to the Final Report for Complaint 15-01772

Dear Executive Inspector General Hickey:

This letter responds to the Final Report for Complaint Number 15-01772, attached. The Report details certain founded allegations and makes certain recommendations. The recommendations are under review by DHS. Your office will receive updates regarding this case. The first update will be provided no later than February 28, 2017.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Robert J. Grindle, DHS' Ethics Officer.

Regards,


James T. Dimas
Secretary



Bruce Rauner, Governor

James T. Dimas, Secretary

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July 13, 2017

*Via e-mail to Fallon Opperman, Deputy Inspector General and Chief of Chicago Division,
on behalf of:*

Maggie Hickey

Executive Inspector General

Office of the Executive Inspector General for the Agencies of the Illinois Governor

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RE: Updated Response to the Final Report for Complaint 15-01772

Dear Executive Inspector General Hickey:

This letter further updates your office regarding the Final Report for Complaint Number 15-01772. That Report made several recommendations concerning a Department of Human Services (DHS) employee, Yolanda Jones. Those recommendations have been followed.

The disciplinary process for Ms. Jones has completed, with her resigning on June 26, 2017. In addition, while no funds have yet been recouped, two recovery accounts have been established with respect to her. Because the funds will be recovered in the normal course and all personnel activity has concluded, DHS considers this matter closed with respect to your office. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Robert J. Grindle, DHS' Ethics Officer.

Regards,


James T. Dimas
Secretary